

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## *Regulating the Cable Monopoly*

8/2/04  
W. Post

The July 25 editorial that opposed modest consumer protections for 100,000-plus cable modem customers is out of touch with reality. The Post said competition from DSL providers or other cable companies, rather than regulation, is the way to solve the 40-foot-long list of Comcast cable modem complaints. That's wrongheaded.

First, DSL is not available to many in Montgomery County. Second, Comcast has an effective monopoly on cable modem. Third, Comcast is bombarding consumers with mailings touting its cable modem as technologically superior to DSL at any rate.

Even if we had effective competition, cable modem customers deserve to get what they pay for. Under The Post's logic, a Toyota Corolla shouldn't have to meet highway safety standards because we can always go out and buy a Ford Focus. That doesn't make sense. We need competition and consumer protections. That's why the County Council was right to resist efforts to weaken the protections and to put the public interest before an industry's special-interest pleading.

MARILYN PRAISNER  
PHIL ANDREWS  
Rockville

*The writers, both Democrats, are members of the Montgomery County Council.*